



June 2025

Economics for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)

Welcome to Economics for PPE at St Hilda's. We hope you are looking forward to starting the course with us in October.

This link gives some suggestions on reading you might like to do in preparation for the start of the course:

<https://www.economics.ox.ac.uk/b.a.-hons.-in-philosophy-politics-economics>

Economics uses quite a bit of maths, and we will expect you to be comfortable from the beginning with basic algebra. If you feel your maths may be a bit rusty, be sure to brush up before the start of the course. This could make a huge difference to how you cope with Economics.

Mathematics for Economics and Business by Ian Jacques (5th edition or later) is an excellent introduction for those without a strong mathematical background. If you have done A-level maths or the equivalent, the most appropriate book is *Mathematics for Economics and Finance* by Martin Anthony and Norman Biggs (1st edition). You might want to dip into this book to see how mathematics is applied in economics. You should check out these sections for the following five topics:

Topic 1: Review of Algebra

Jacques 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3

Anthony & Biggs 2.4

Topic 2: Lines and Graphs

Jacques 1.1, 2.1

Topic 3: Sequences, Series and Limits

Jacques 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4

Anthony & Biggs 3.3, 4, 7.2, 7.3

Topic 4: Functions

Jacques 1.3, 2.3, 2.4, 5.1

Anthony & Biggs 1, 2.2, 2.3, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 11.1, 12.4

Topic 5: Differentiation

Jacques 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.6

Anthony & Biggs 6.1, 6.2, 8.2, 8.3

For the Probability and Statistics component of the course, providing foundations for the quantitative methods that we use in Economics, obtaining a copy of *Introduction to Econometrics* by J. H. Stock and M. W. Watson (2nd, 3rd or 4th edition) would be a very good investment. You might like to take a look at the following:

Stock & Watson Chapter 2 Problems 1-7 and 9

All of the textbooks mentioned above are expensive if you seek to obtain a new edition, but earlier editions can be obtained fairly affordably from websites such as Amazon and eBay. The earlier editions as specified are perfectly suitable for the course. These books can often also be borrowed from public libraries.

Your Politics and Philosophy tutors will be writing to you separately.

We look forward to welcoming you at St Hilda's, and to making a smooth and productive start on the course in October.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Richard Povey
Lecturer and Tutor in Economics

Professor Anders Kock
Fellow and Tutor in Economics